

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

25 SEPTEMBER 2018

LOCAL RAIL DEVELOPMENT FUND

REPORT BY SENIOR PARTNERSHIP MANAGER

This report informs the Partnership of award of grants from Transport Scotland's Local Rail Development Fund for two Transport Appraisals; asks the Partnership to endorse the procurement strategy and to delegate authority to the Director and Treasurer to award contracts.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Partnership:

- (i) notes and welcomes award of grants from Transport Scotland for two Local Rail Development Fund transport appraisal projects, as outlined within the report;
- (ii) endorses the proposed procurement strategy as set out within the report; and
- (iii) delegates authority to approve award of contracts for undertaking Local Rail Development Fund Transport Appraisals to the Director and Treasurer.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 27 March 2018 the Partnership delegated authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve potential applications to the Local Rail Development Fund (Report RTP/18/14 refers).
- 2.2 During May 2018 the Executive Committee approved the submission of two applications to the Local Development Fund: Stirling Strategic Park & Ride Study and Bridge of Earn Appraisal by the deadline of 8 June 2018 (Report RTP/18/23 refers).

3 DISCUSSION**Grant Award**

- 3.1 On 19 March 2018 Transport Scotland published information on a £2m Scottish Government fund to develop options to improve local rail connections. The Local Rail Development Fund (LRDF) was open for any stakeholder organisation with a responsibility or interest in local transport issues to apply, including RTPs and Local Authorities.

- 3.2 Tactran submitted two applications to the LRDF: Stirling Strategic Park & Ride Study in partnership with Stirling Council and Bridge of Earn Transport Appraisal in partnership with Perth & Kinross Council. Both applications have been successful in being awarded grants by Transport Scotland, as follows:
- Stirling Strategic Park & Ride Study – up to a maximum of £125,000
 - Bridge of Earn Transport Appraisal – up to a maximum of £97,000
- 3.3 The LRDF grants are payable over the financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20 and will assist in funding the pre-pipeline appraisal work as set out in Transport Scotland's Rail Enhancement and Capital Investment Strategy. The appraisal must be multi-modal and follow the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) process with a number of decision points, as shown in Appendix A Diagram One. The funding will be provided sequentially and reviewed at each decision point in the process.
- 3.4 In particular the offer of grant letters contain the following conditions:
- There will be a decision point after the Initial Appraisal Case for Change Report and the Preliminary Options Appraisal Report to consider if there is sufficient evidence to proceed to the next stage of the transport appraisal.
 - Funding from the Local Rail Development Fund will be provided in stages and it will only be possible to proceed to the next stage of appraisal when it can be demonstrated that there is sufficient justification to do so.
 - If a rail option is not identified as a potential transport option to address the evidenced transport problem, funding will not be provided from the Local Rail Development Fund for the subsequent stages of appraisal.
- 3.5 Depending upon the outcome of the STAG appraisal process, a rail-related project may then be taken forward to be included in the Rail Enhancements and Capital Investment Strategy pipeline of projects for the next 10-15 years (Diagram Two, Appendix A).
- 3.6 The Partnership is asked to note and welcome the award of grants for Stirling Strategic Park & Ride Study and Bridge of Earn Transport Appraisal.

Previous and Ongoing Related Work

- 3.7 The Stirling Strategic Park & Ride Study and Bridge of Earn Transport Appraisal have a number of studies and ongoing work that will feed into and inform the appraisal required.

Stirling Strategic Park & Ride Study

- 3.8 A substantial amount of work has been undertaken to date that has either led to or directly informs the Stirling Strategic Park & Ride Study.

- A strategic appraisal, Stirling City DPMTAG, which identified potential strategic transport interventions
- Technical study to identify technical constraints for rail interventions in the Stirling area
- Demand forecasting work to determine potential rail passenger use.
- Stirling South Bus Based Park & Ride STAG Appraisal
- Demand forecasting work to determine Stirling South Park & Ride bus passenger use
- Stirling City Paramics traffic model development

3.9 All of the above work to date has been undertaken by consultants SYSTRA, procured by Stirling Council, with Tactran officers as part of the Steering Groups, and feed into or will be utilised in the proposed multi-modal STAG appraisal for Stirling Strategic Park & Ride Study.

Bridge of Earn Transport Appraisal

3.10 A substantial amount of work has been undertaken to date that directly relates and supports the Bridge of Earn Transport Appraisal:

- Perth West Masterplan
- Bertha Park and Almond Valley Village transport assessments
- Cross Tay Link Road Stage 3 DMRB
- Perth Cycle Network Masterplan
- Newburgh & Oudenarde Initial Rail Demand Feasibility Study (Procured by Sestran)
- Perth City Paramics traffic model
- Oudenarde Development Paramics traffic model/ impact
- Tay Cities Regional Transport Model (Procured by Transport Scotland/Tactran)

3.11 All of the above work to date has been undertaken by consultants SYSTRA, procured by Perth & Kinross Council (unless noted), with input from Tactran officers as part of the Steering Groups, and feed into or will be utilised in the proposed Bridge of Earn multi-modal STAG Transport Appraisal.

Procurement Strategy

3.12 Tactran is an associate member of Scotland Excel, the centre of procurement expertise for Scotland's local government sector. The intention is to use Scotland Excel's Lot 2 'Engineering and Technical Consultancy' Framework to procure consultants to undertake appraisal work for each of the two projects. Options for procurement considered through Scotland Excel are either by mini-competition or by direct quotation.

3.13 A range of factors may be taken into account under the Framework Contract in deciding a suitable procurement strategy. Directly selecting a Supplier to provide a quotation can be an appropriate route for contracts over £50,000 in

value when previous work carried out by the Supplier related to the work package will result in best value.

- 3.14 Advice has been sought from Scotland Excel procurement specialist and Tactran's supporting Perth & Kinross Council procurement advisers. Both have advised that for each of the LRDF projects the previous work undertaken and on-going by SYSTRA directly relating to Stirling Strategic Park & Ride Study and Bridge of Earn Transport Appraisal should result in best value being achieved through directly selecting SYSTRA to provide a quotation for each contract.
- 3.15 Factors considered in determining best value include significant prior knowledge by SYSTRA based on previous and ongoing directly related work, reduced resources required by the Client during procurement and milestone call off points. Furthermore it has been advised that although these are two separate contracts there could be further economies if the projects are run concurrently by the same consultant.
- 3.16 Given the work outlined in paragraphs 3.7 to 3.11 above and considering best value, a procurement strategy directly selecting SYSTRA to provide a quotation for Stirling Strategic Park & Ride Study and Bridge of Earn Transport Appraisal is proposed. The Partnership is asked to endorse the procurement strategy.
- 3.17 The aim is to complete procurement of consultancy support by end of October 2018 and commence the transport appraisals as soon as possible thereafter. In order to enable this work to be progressed timeously it is proposed that authority to award contracts be delegated to the Director and Treasurer in consultation with the Chair.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 Advice has been sought from Scotland Excel and Perth & Kinross Council regarding the procurement strategy.
- 4.2 Officers from Stirling and Perth & Kinross Councils have been consulted in development of this report and are in agreement with the recommendations.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Scottish Government grants of up to a maximum of £125,000 and £97,000 in financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20 have been awarded to Tactran for Stirling Strategic Park & Ride Study and Bridge of Earn Transport Appraisal respectively.

6 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Equality Impact Assessment and no material issues have been identified.

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NOTE

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report:

Report to Partnership RTP/18/14, Director's Report, 27 March 2018

Report to Executive Committee, RTP/18/15, Local Rail Development Fund, 18 May 2018.

DIAGRAM ONE

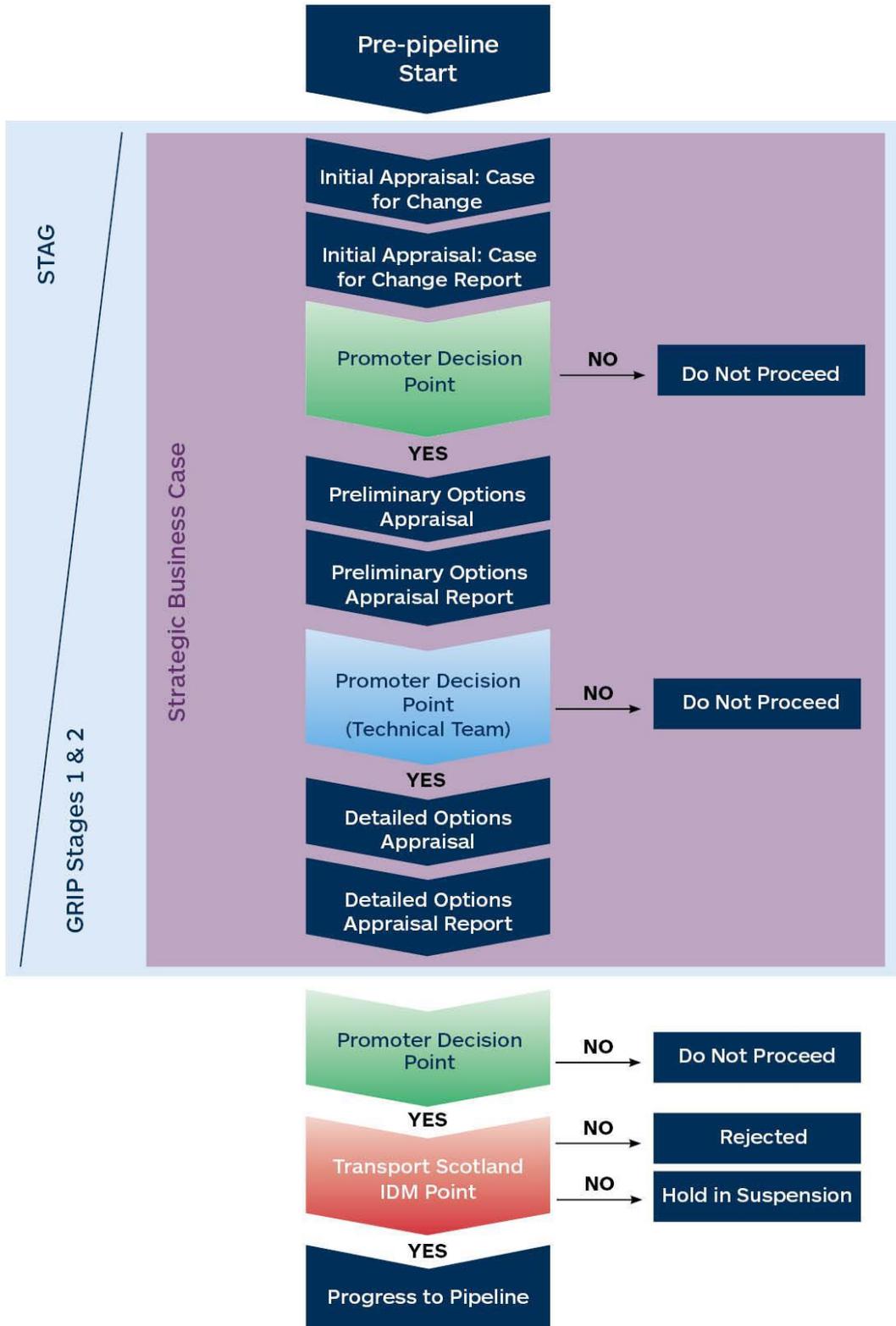


DIAGRAM TWO

